

VIII

OBITUARY

SURGEON-CAPTAIN R. J. G. PARNELL, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., R.N.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN RODERICK JOSEPH GRAHAM PARNELL (Retd.), who died on February 5th, 1935, was born on September 5th, 1883. He received his medical education at Bristol University and at King's College, London. After holding an appointment as House Surgeon at King's College Hospital, he entered the Royal Naval Medical Service in November, 1909, and was appointed to the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, for a short course of instruction. At the conclusion of this course, Dr. Parnell was awarded the prize in Hygiene and Naval Hygiene, and also the Gold Medal for General Efficiency. In September, 1910, he was selected for service in S.S. *Balmoral Castle* for the Duke of Connaught's tour. At the beginning of the war he served in H.M.S. *Irresistible*, which was one of the ships sunk in the Dardanelles. He retired from the service on February 28th, 1934.

Dr. Parnell served in many ships and on various stations throughout the world, but was best known, both in naval and in other medical circles, for his researches and interest in the work of combating venereal disease in the Navy. He served on the Advisory Board of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, and he wrote many articles in connection with this subject, including that on Venereal Disease in the Naval Medical History of the Great War, treatment of the toxic reactions which follow intravenous injection of "914." While holding the post of specialist in venereal diseases at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, he, in conjunction with Dr. Paul Fildes, of the London Hospital, who was then an Honorary Staff Surgeon at the R.N. Hospital, carried out researches and published an article headed "Notes on the Observation and Treatment of Syphilis in the Navy."

Dr. Parnell became a member of the Medical Society

BRITISH JOURNAL OF VENEREAL DISEASES

for the Study of Venereal Diseases in 1922. He was elected as a member of the Council of that body, and served thereon from 1924-27, and again from 1930-34. We avail ourselves of this mournful opportunity to speak with gratitude of the services which he rendered, through this Society and otherwise, to the cause which he had so greatly at heart.

Apart from his professional skill, Dr. Parnell will always be remembered for his social charm ; a lover of music, he himself often contributed to the delight of an evening with a tenor voice which frequently led to the remark that he would have made a fortune in the musical world.

He leaves a widow and four daughters, and his untimely death at such an early age is a loss to the medical profession as a whole, and particularly to that section so interested in his specialised type of work.

C. F. O. SANKEY.